

N.O.W. News

Official publication of the *Numismatists Of Wisconsin*



Numismatists of Wisconsin is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation.

Contributions are tax deductible. The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin collectors of numismatic items and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage, educate, and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$10 per year and entitles participants to N.O.W. News, this quarterly publication. Among the services offered are coin authentication, a Speaker's Bureau, show calendar coordination, and guidelines to assist coin clubs hosting the annual N.O.W. convention. Numismatists of Wisconsin holds Life Memberships in the American Numismatic Association and Central States Numismatic Society.

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ON THE COVER: Gracing our cover on this issue is a rare Shell Card from Fond du Lac. Clifford Mishler supplied the item and this definition: Shell Cards were a mid- to late- 19th century phenomenon. To quote from an early issue of the TAMS Journal; "These cards are composed of a thin shell, usually brass, on which a design is embossed. The interior of the shell is then filled with a paper composition, usually cardboard, and the issuer's name and advertisement is printed thereon . . . their heyday (was) in 1868 . . . most of these cards were last produced (in 1876) . . . none are common . . . It is generally accepted that their purpose of issue was advertising, although it is not inconceivable that in some instances they served as monetary substitutes of some sort." **The Clement Brothers**, Steven the elder, and Charles, were born in NY and came to Fond du Lac in 1868. Steven was a livery stable worker and Charles worked in wood and iron. They opened their tobacco / meerschaum business in 1869-70 or 1871-72. (Meerschaum is a clay-like mineral that was often fashioned into smoking pipes.) The business was short-lived. As early as 1873, Charles went into partnership with one William Wilson to manufacture and repair wagons and carriages. In 1875 the brothers again teamed up, opening their own carriage making company. From the late 1870's Charles continued to manufacture wagons and carriages under various businesses and partnerships, while Steven went on to own Clement Stage Coach Line, "delivering passengers to all parts of the city for .25c."

From the Editor

Greetings friends! We have arrived at the winter issue of NOW NEWS, which unfortunately means winter has arrived. How rude of it! But, we Wisconsinites take it in stride – never complaining about the little things like freezing rain icing up the windshield, shoveling until our backs are locked at a painful 45 degree angle, or slipping and bruising our backsides on the ice. However, winter does bring us the holidays and some of us like to ski and do other snowy recreations – then there are those who can take a break from winter and attend the FUN show down in sunny Florida. Whatever we do as winter bears down upon us, we can be thankful for our hobby to keep us distracted from the cold, ice, and snow.

This issue of NOW NEWS should do just that. Another fine compliment of articles written by our NOW members. First time author George Alafouzos gets it started with his look at 'Drafts from the Past'. Then Dreux Watermolen shows us where to find 'Everywhere'. Mark Benvenuto keeps us grounded with the 'Allure of Old Copper', and finally I ask what you know about the 'War of 1812'. Don't forget our regular features you come to depend on; NOW News and Notes, Club News, ANA News, US Mint News, BOOKS! (We have an announcement of a new book by Q. David Bowers, which coincidentally blends beautifully with our cover photo, and ironically our cover subject is not in the book!) Be sure not to miss the Show Calendar on the inside back cover for the latest on upcoming shows. It is also time to send in your membership dues and vote for your favorite NOW NEWS articles – your ballot and remittance envelope are enclosed in this issue.

Coin World Editor Steve Roach had nice things to say about Club publications such as NOW NEWS in his editorial of November 17th, which I think are worth mentioning. Roach writes;

"Surveys of membership organizations (both numismatic and otherwise) typically confirm one fact: that members view a publication as the primary tangible benefit of membership. Each week in Coin World's offices, we get publications from organizations across the country, big and small. Some are excellent publications with a regional emphasis, others are specialty publications with in-depth research of the sort that is necessary for the growth of numismatics, but goes beyond what a mainstream publication like Coin World can publish. The quality of research in many of these publications has never been higher, and they provide a wonderful complement to more broad-ranging publications like Coin World."

We will continue to strive to make NOW NEWS a primary tangible benefit to your membership in NOW, and hope you will spread the word about our organization. As our club grows, we spread the growth of the hobby. Please consider sharing your research, your specialty, and your enthusiasm for numismatics by writing an article for NOW NEWS.

Enjoy your winter issue and sincere wishes for a fantastic Holiday Season!

Jeff Reichenberger





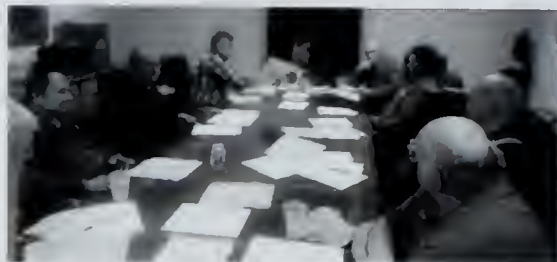
N.O.W. NEWS AND NOTES

NOW Board of Governors Meeting Report

Your NOW Board of Governors met on October 5th, in conjunction with the annual Milwaukee Numismatic Society show at Serb Hall in Milwaukee. Present were President Thad Streeter, Vice President Fred Borgmann, Secretary/Treasurer Bill Oldenburg, Governors Cliff Mishler, Leon Sayran, Lee Hart, Tom Casper, Joel Edler, Ken Muelling, George Alafouzou, Darrell Luedtke, and Jeff Reichenberger.

Agenda topics discussed included:

The upcoming NOW sponsored shows; (May 15-16, 2015, Iola); (March 31, April 1-2, 2016, Milwaukee); (2017, Madison, dates TBD) *See the Show Calendar in the back of your NOW NEWS for more details.*



Membership, Life Membership status, new member applications. Membership stands at 253. This is good, we are up nearly thirty members from a year ago! Let's keep recruiting new members! Membership dues will remain the same – the very low cost of just \$10 per year or \$150 Life Membership.

Banner. We now have a show banner to display when we have a booth at various shows around the state. Look for it – and help promote NOW.

NOW Website status: excellent, updated regularly with member-written articles, news, and links.

www.numismatistsofwisconsin.com



NOW constitution and bylaws update review to take place in 2015.

Next BOG meeting February 15, 2015, Oshkosh.

Your Board of Governors meets at least 3 times a year at various venues throughout Wisconsin, usually in conjunction with a show. The General Membership meeting is held yearly at the N.O.W. show. Please contact any of the board members with your ideas or comments. N.O.W. is YOUR club, the more input from all members, the better the club will be for all of us and our hobby.

2015 DUES NOTICE

Please note that your 'Dues are Due' remittance envelope is in THIS issue. PLEASE send in your dues in a timely manner...like right now!! Your yearly dues keep your club running and viable. It keeps our membership at a sustainable level allowing us to maintain our bulk postage status, it finances the quarterly printing of your N.O.W. News, and it supports our efforts to educate and promote the hobby. So send in your dues ASAP! Just \$10 per year! Great bargain! **THANK YOU!!**

2014 WRITER'S CONTEST

It is time once again to vote for your favorite articles written by your fellow NOW members over the past year. We have another fine group of articles to choose from. Please take the time to show your appreciation for all of the wonderful articles that keep your NOW NEWS alive and well by voting.

The 'Vote For Your Favorites' ballot for the 2014 Writer's Awards is in THIS issue! Please fill it out and send it in the enclosed remittance envelope. (Along with your dues 😊) THANK YOU!!

SHOW REPORTS

MILWAUKEE

Sunday, October 5th the Milwaukee Numismatic Society held its annual coin show at American Serb Hall. The show was well attended from early on, until well into the afternoon. There was not a Packer Game that day which always gives our local shows a boost. Buying and selling was robust and Chairman Tom Casper was pleased with the show.

GREEN BAY

Sunday, November 2nd the Nicolet Coin Club held its fall show at the Comfort Suites-Rock Garden. Chairman Roger Bohn writes: "Our show was very good. Lots of people. Not much selling by customers. Lots of buying of bullion, mainly due to the drop in prices. Silver and gold bullion coins were hot! Type coins also good. Currency a little slow. Dealers and customers were pleased."

We always enjoy hearing from show coordinators and members who attend local shows. Please send us your show reports so we can keep up with the pulse of the hobby in Wisconsin. -Editor

CLUB NEWS

Sheboygan Coin Club

The Sheboygan Coin Club sponsored a teaching session on how to collect coins at the Mead Public Library on December 6th. A power-point presentation on the basics of collecting was given. Dealers from the area were present to show people what collectibles are available throughout the world of coins, and to give complimentary appraisals.

The club featured showcase displays of numismatic materials at the library during the months of October, November, and December. The November focus centered on coin starter gift ideas for parents and grandparents preparing for the holidays.

The Sheboygan Coin Club is available to work with local Boy Scout troops to help them earn their collecting merit badges. The hope is to get today's youth interested in the coin hobby as a lifelong enjoyable pastime. If anyone is interested in having members of the Sheboygan Coin Club present at a Scout meeting, please contact Terry at 920-458-5190.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

MNS Coordinates Library Book Donations – SSCC, IBNS join the endeavor

Public libraries in southeastern Wisconsin have benefited greatly from the efforts of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society in the past several years. Taking advantage of the financial support of the Central States Numismatic Society, substantial donations of key current numismatic reference works have been donated to local libraries.

The program began around 2008 with a donation to the Wauwatosa Public Library when Pat Bethe was MNS president. Leon Saryan, MNS president from 2010 to 2013, made similar donations to the Greenfield Public Library in 2010 and the Franklin Public Library in 2012. These donations serve the goals of MNS by providing the public with easy access to authoritative information about coins and currency and their values.

In 2014, for the first time, **South Shore Coin Club** and the **International Bank Note Society Midwest Chapter** joined MNS for this program. The 2014 MNS donation went to the West Bend Community Memorial Library, IBNS donated books to the North Shore Library in Glendale, and SSCC to the Cudahy Family Library. Leon Saryan, past president of the MNS and a member of all three clubs, took the lead in coordinating the three donations in Milwaukee and



Milwaukee Numismatic Society 2014 book donation to the West Bend Community Memorial Library, (l-r) Leon Saryan (MNS immediate past president); Susan Robbins (Reference Librarian), Dave Hunsicker (MNS past president), Amy Becker (Library Director).

West Bend. Racine dealer Bill Spencer handled two additional donations in the Racine and Kenosha area.

"Our local clubs are indebted to Central States for their generosity in sponsoring this program," said Saryan. "Every CSNS member club should take advantage of it.



August 2014 numismatic reference book donation to North Shore Library coordinated by Midwest chapter of the International Banknote Society, (l-r) Joe Rice (Library Director) and Dr. Leon Saryan (IBNS chapter member).

The project begins with an expression of interest by the library. With assistance of Bill Spencer, books are ordered from leading numismatic publishers (primarily Krause Publications of Iola and Whitman Publications in Atlanta) and delivered to the selected library. Paperwork confirming the donation is submitted Ray Lockwood, CSNS Education Director, which then reimburses participating clubs up to \$500 for the cost of the books. CSNS member clubs can take advantage of the program once per year.

Collectors will be interested to learn that this year, the titles donated included about 17 leading numismatic reference works. Each library received up-to-date complete sets of the highly useful KP standard catalogs covering world paper

currency and world coins. These massive catalogs (typically about 4 inches thick) provide the most comprehensive coverage available anywhere. Catalogs of this type are normally held in the library reference section and are thus available to the general public on an ongoing basis. Also included were current editions of the Red Book and specialized catalogs on covering Civil War tokens, Confederate paper money, and United States currency.



August 2014 Numismatic book donation to the Cudahy Family Library coordinated by South Shore Coin Club (l-r): Rebecca Roepke (Library Director), Dr. Leon Saryan (SSCC past VP), and Mike McAndrews (SSCC VP).

Central States Numismatic Society

The Central States Numismatic Society is sponsoring a one-day educational program focusing on paper currency to be held at the Clarion Airport Hotel in Milwaukee, May 23, 2015. Four nationally-recognized experts--**Peter Huntoon**, **Wendell Wolka**, and NOW members **Neil Shafer**, and **Bill Brandimore**, --will be featured speakers on various aspects of paper money. A continental breakfast and a catered lunch will be provided. Registration and breakfast will begin at 8 AM, and the program ends at 4 PM. Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your numismatic knowledge!! Advanced registration is required and a nominal registration fee is requested to cover the cost of breakfast and lunch. CSNS members and non-members are cordially invited--members are offered a reduced rate. For more details, contact CSNS Educational Director Ray Lockwood at sunrayofmarion@aol.com.

What's your Club been up to lately? Send us your information today!

COIN CLUB MEETINGS

BARRON COUNTY COIN CLUB

Meets 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Thursday at the School Administration Bldg., 700 Augusta St., Rice Lake. Contact Barron County Coin Club, P.O. Box 362, Rice Lake, WI 54868.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 on the 1st Thursday of each month in the basement of Parks Rec. Bldg., 1300 1st Ave. in Eau Claire. E-mail 54701.com/coinclub or PO Box 2140 Eau Claire, WI 54702.

ELGIN IL COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:30 1st Wednesday at Elgin Moose Fam.Ctr. 925 S. McLean Blvd. Elgin, IL 60123. Contact Don Cerny, PO Box 651, 5. Elgin, IL 60177. Ph. 847-888-1449.

FISHBOWL WOODEN NICKEL COIN CLUB

Meets the 3rd Thursday (April-October); at the Siren Senior Center, 23943 State Road 35, Siren, 6:30 traders; 7:00 business meeting (Nov.-March) at 24136 State Road 35/70, Siren. Contact Gary Schauls, 2702 150th St., Luck, WI 54853-3811. Phone 715-472-2002.

FOND DU LAC COIN CLUB

Meets the 1st Tuesday (May thru Sept.) at the Senior Center East 2nd Street in Fond du Lac. Contact Fond du Lac Coin Club, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

FOX VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Good Will - Community Entrance, 1800 Appleton Road, Menasha. Corner of HWYs 47 and 10.

INTNL BANK NOTE SOCIETY - MIDWEST CHAPTER

Meets at 1:00 the 2nd Saturday each month at North Shore Library, 6800 North Port Washington Road in Glendale. www.mcfls.org/northshorelibrary.

KENOSHA COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st Thursday of each month (except July & August) at 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

KETTLE MORaine COIN & STAMP CLUB

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Silverbrook Middle School, 120 N. Silverbrook Drive in West Bend. Youth meeting at 6:30. Contact: Dave Hunsicker 262-338-6064.

LAKE COUNTY COIN CLUB

Meets 7:00 the 1st Tues. each month at the Gurnee Police Facility. Contact LCCC, POBox 94, Gurnee, IL, 60031-0094, lakecountycoinclub@gmail.com

LAKELAND COIN & STAMP CLUB

Meets at 6:45 the first and third Thursday of each month at Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff, WI.

MADISON COIN CLUB

The club tries to meet at 7:00 pm on the 1st or 2nd Monday or Tuesday of each month at the Alicia Ashman Branch of the Madison Public Library, 733 N. High Point Road. Contact Tom Galway. Phone 608-238-1722.

MANITOWOC COIN CLUB

No regular monthly meetings. An annual coin show is held in February. Contact Al Hrudka 920-775-4979.

MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mayfair Mall Community Room, 2500 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa (use #2 entrance, east side of mall). Contact www.milwaukeeenumismaticssociety.com.

NICOLET COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at the Bay Family Restaurant corner of Military and 9th St. in G. Bay. Contact Roger Bohn: 920-819-7294, boneyard7@yahoo.com

RACINE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Thursday at Castlewood Restaurant, 2815 Wisconsin St., Sturtevant. Contact Bill Spencer 262-637-7766. (no July or Aug. mtg).

ROCKFORD AREA COIN CLUB

Meets 6:30 Thursday at North Suburban Women's Club, 6320 N. 2nd St., Loves Park, www.exonomia.com /RACC.htm..Contact: Rockford Area Coin Club, c/o Darrell Schultz, P.O.Box 294, Cherry Valley, IL 61016.

SHEBOYGAN COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at Maple Lanes, 3107 S. Business Dr., in Sheboygan. Contact Sheboygan Coin Club, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082.

SOUTH SHORE COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of month at St. Roman's Parish Office, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. Milw. Cntct: Steven Jendusa 414-364-3772. www.sscmke.org.

WAUKESHA COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of month at the Waukesha Salvation Army at 445 Madison St., Waukesha. Contact Forrest Schumacher, 2300 Avalon Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186. Ph: 262-542-5990. www.waukeshaco-inclub.com.

WISCONSIN VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at Schofield Coin & Hobby, 754 Grand Ave., Schofield, WI 54476. (June, July, Aug. mtg 3rd Tue.) Contact Thad Streeter 5002 Tanya St. Schofield, WI 54478 Ph.715-574-2777.

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DRAFTS FROM THE PAST *by George Alafouzos #2028*

The term “Exonomia” has many interpretations to a collector, the foremost of these is: “Outside of Numismatics” meaning of course peripheral to the nature of money collecting.

Within the past 5 years I pleasantly discovered a collecting field that is very interesting indeed and in close proximity to banking and bank notes, bank drafts, bank checks and receipts.

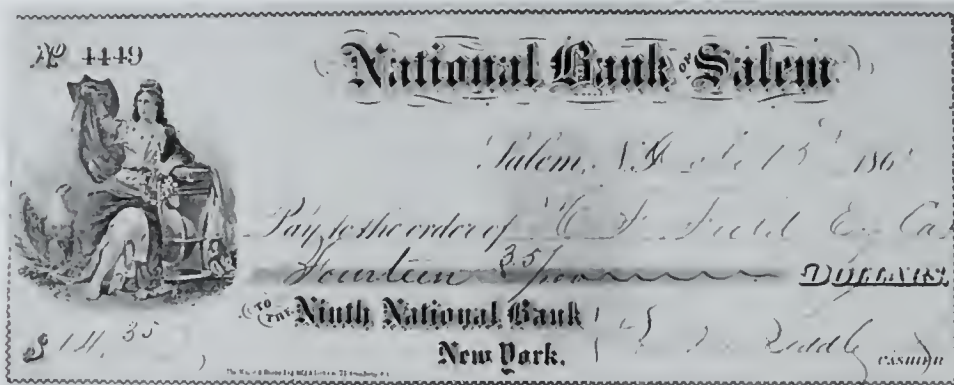
To me, the interest of collecting these drafts is their relationship to the history and events of the years of issue, for example:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1863 | The middle of the War Between the States. |
| 1867 | Southern States Reconstruction Era. |
| 1876 | The Centennial Year of the United States. The Battle of Little Big Horn. |
| 1892-93 | Year of the Columbian Exposition |
| 1901 | End of the Victorian Age |
| 1904 | Start of the Panama Canal project |

Among these drafts, interesting and famous names often "pop up". Names like: Winchester, Ingalls, Elliot, Skelton, Quackenbush, Hughes, Dupree, Weber, Hoover, Simmons, Bowen, Crane, McCabe, Brenner, Kirby, Davis, Nicholson, Deters, Wilson, Burris, Dempsey, Howard, Alexander, Etc.

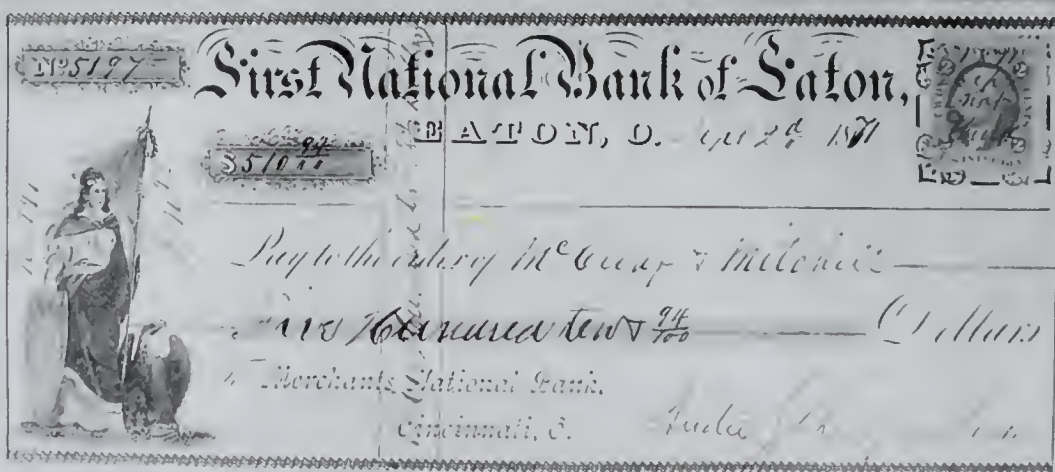
Also included in this collection is a company check to a bank for \$30,000: a goodly sum for 1898.

The pen & ink handwriting of each period is varied: from grotesquely crude to John Hancock calligraphically fancy. Many drafts also include various colorful document and revenue stamps of the era of issue.



The personal nature and aspect of writing a check then, was much different than today with the age of technology in the modern forefront of change.

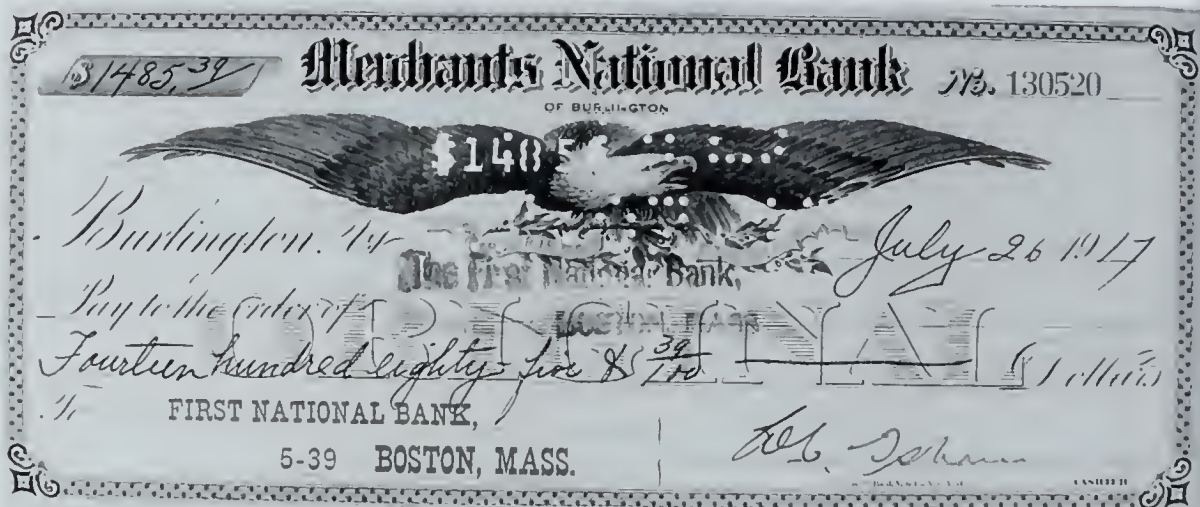
To the nostalgic passionate collector and history buff these desirable elegant ancient pieces of paper are part of an age that is gone forever.



On occasion many are found bearing the usual stains of age that graphically add to their character. Many of the reverses bear signatures and stamps.

History is indeed all around us if we do a bit of searching and pleasantly surprisingly discovering it in any form, as these bank drafts, checks, and receipts of long ago.

At this writing end, my focus point has been these historical retrospective collectible artifacts, with visibly the human touch indeed.



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ANA NEWS



National Coin Week: APRIL 19-25



National Coin Week theme, Building Tomorrows: Inspiration and Innovation at World's Fairs

World's Fairs and Expositions have long celebrated mankind's achievements in science, architecture and social progress. The 2015 National Coin Week theme, "Building Tomorrows: Inspiration and Innovation at World's Fairs," will celebrate the history of these great events and the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco.

Each year, numismatists across the country celebrate National Coin Week during the third week of April. The 2015 celebration will take place April 19-25.

In recent years, the theme for National Coin Week has been provided by ANA members. This year, ANA member Esther Leising submitted the winning entry. She will receive a 2014 Civil Rights Act of 1964 proof silver dollar.

Activities and resources scheduled for the 2015 National Coin Week include:

- A video activity via the ANA's YouTube page and website for a variety of prizes.
- A club trivia activity for a variety of prizes.
- A promotional kit for clubs with educational materials, buttons, bookmarks and more.
- An open house at the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum, scheduled for April 25, featuring 2015 National Coin Week medalettes produced in the museum's Mini Mint.

The winning theme for National Coin Week also serves as an exhibit category at the ANA's National Money ShowSM, which will take place March 5-7, 2015, in Portland, Oregon. The exhibits are intended for placement in public spaces such as bank and post office lobbies, libraries, retail stores and schools. Materials cannot exceed \$250 in total numismatic value. For exhibit rules and applications, go to www.NationalMoneyShow.com. For more information or to request club promotional materials, go to NationalCoinWeek.org, email ncw@money.org or call 719-482-9814.

HAVE A SAY IN THE FUTURE OF THE ANA

Nominations are currently being sought for the 2015 American Numismatic Association Board of Governors election. ANA bylaws require nominees to secure the physical signatures of 25 ANA members, 25 ANA-member clubs in good standing, or a combination of the two in order to be placed on the ballot.

Members of the Board of Governors are elected for two-year terms. The ANA's Congressional Charter rests control of the association with the board members.

All nine members' terms are expiring this summer, and the new board will be installed at the World's Fair of Money in Chicago on Aug. 14, 2015.

Nomination forms, a timeline for the election, the ANA bylaws, eligibility for office, and all other information pertaining to the elections can be downloaded at the ANA Election Center:

<http://www.money.org/elections>

Members will also have the opportunity to vote electronically or with a traditional paper ballot received via U.S. mail. Members who do not opt-in for the electronic ballot will instead receive a paper ballot.

Please take a moment and follow the steps below to receive an electronic ballot, or to see if you're already signed up for the electronic ballot. Members who signed up for electronic ballots in the 2013 Election will receive an electronic ballot unless they follow the steps below and uncheck the Electronic Ballot box.

1. Log in to money.org
2. On the yellow menu bar, hover over "My ANA" and select "My Account."
3. Click on "Update my Information."
4. Scroll down to the "ANA Benefits" area of the screen and check the box labeled "Electronic Ballot" in order to vote electronically.

Questions on registering for the electronic ballot or on how to log in to your Money.org account? Call the Membership Department at 800-514-2646 or email membersonly@money.org. Please do not create a new account.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE U.S. MINT ?

Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter Named Best Circulating Coin

The United States Mint is pleased to announce that the Mount Rushmore National Memorial quarter has been named Best Circulating Coin in the annual international competition sponsored by Krause Publications, publishers of World Coin News and Numismatic News.

By winning in this category, the coin is now in competition for Coin of the Year and will compete against coins from countries around the world that have won competitions in nine other categories.

An international panel of judges who are experts in numismatics makes selections for these honors. There were a total of 94 different nominees from 45 countries for the entire competition.

The Mount Rushmore National Memorial quarter, issued in 2013, is the 20th quarter in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program. The sculpture, located in the scenic Black Hills of South Dakota, features Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

The coin's reverse design, by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Joe Menna, was inspired by photos of men who added the final details to Thomas Jefferson's face. Menna's design offered a unique and educational perspective on how Mount Rushmore was created and sculpted.

"Joe's extraordinary efforts obviously reflect great credit on the United States Mint," said United States Mint Deputy Director Richard A. Peterson. "However, this is an honor every Mint employee should share in as it also reflects the great work they do on a daily basis."



Visit the U.S. Mint on their re-vamped website: usmint.gov

THE MIDDLE OF MOST EVERYWHERE:

The 45x90 Club's Medal Marks the Spot

by Dreux J. Watermolen #1755

Many *N.O.W. News* readers will be familiar with the phrase “the middle of nowhere.” It’s often used to refer to one or another of the ‘cross-roads’ communities that dot our state’s rural landscape. A fair number of folks even take pride in referring to their hometowns in this manner. Yet, there’s one Wisconsin place that claims to be ‘the middle of most everywhere’, and for the interested numismatist, it offers a nice reward.

The Place

Poniatowski, a ‘town’ about 40 miles southeast of Timm’s Hill in Marathon County, is easy to get to, but so small that most roadmaps don’t even acknowledge its existence. Pass through and you’ll find but a few nondescript houses, a couple taverns, and a cemetery. Yet, labeled or not, the location of Poniatowski is marked on nearly every globe, and it has been visited by thousands of people from all over the world. The place has received occasional media attention, and folksingers Peter and Lou Berryman even wrote a song about it.

So what’s all the fuss about this little hamlet? Poniatowski is where two of the principal lines of latitude and longitude intersect. That is 45° N and 90° W, halfway from the Equator to the North Pole and halfway around the Western Hemisphere. Of the four spots like it on the planet, two are under water (the southeast and southwest quadrants in the Indian and Pacific oceans, respectively), and the other (northeast) is located at a rather difficult to get to place in rural China.

In 1963, when John R. Gesicki, owner of Gesicki’s General Store and Tavern, began researching the invisible point, it took him some “five years to piece together the correct maps to pinpoint the exact center of the Northwest Hemisphere.” He then petitioned the U.S. Geological Survey to mark the spot. After review of Gesicki’s maps and additional survey work, a brown, painted, wooden sign with yellow text (Fig. 1) was erected. The text of the sign reads:

“GEOLOGICAL MARKER / This spot in Section 14, in the Town of Rietbrock, Marathon County is the exact center of the northern half of the Western Hemisphere. It is here that the 90th meridian of longitude bisects the 45th parallel of latitude, meaning it is exactly halfway between the North Pole and the Equator, and is a quarter of the way around the earth from Greenwich, England. / MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION”

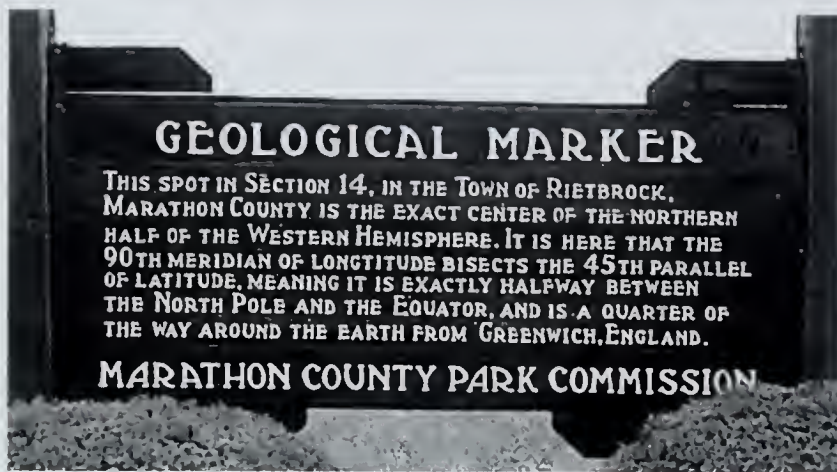


Figure 1: This Geological Marker designates the 45 x 90 spot.

A metal marker embedded in concrete in front of the sign designates the 'exact' spot of 45x90.

Unfortunately, the sign and marker are erroneous in a couple of ways. First, the sign is labeled improperly as a 'geological' marker, when it really should be considered a 'geographical' marker. The second problem is that the actual 45x90 spot is located about 1,060 feet away from the marker, an unmarked point in the middle of a soybean field on private property.

More recently, smaller metal signs were mounted on the wooden sign to indicate:

"This monument is only a representation of the interception of the 90th meridian & the 45th parallel. The true location is N 75° 06' 38" E, 1,066.18' from the center of the monument."

Of course, in this age of GPS and Google Maps, plenty of obsessed visitors trespass and venture away from the sign to stand in the 'real' 45x90 spot.

The 45x90 Club

In 1978, Mr. Gesicki filed papers with the Marathon County register of deeds to officially establish the Geological 45x90 Club of Poniatowski, Wisconsin. The club is a "worldwide organization, allowing worldwide enrollment for membership," and has no membership dues, elected officers, organizational meetings, or assets. For many years, visitors to the 45x90 spot would stop at Gesicki's Tavern, where they could sign a registry and become official members of the club.

Since 2006, the downtown Visitors Center in nearby Wausau has been the keeper of the official 45x90 Club registration book (Fig. 2), on loan from the Gesicki family. The 3-ring binder, at a good six inches thick, holds the date and names of the 5,000+ visitors who have trekked to the spot from all 50 states and more than 20 foreign countries (as of February 2014). Signing the book makes one an instant member of the 45x90 Club.



Figure 2: Signing the official club registry makes one a member.

The Reward

Of interest to the numismatist is the reward for club membership. The cheerful Visitor Center staff present new members with a commemorative 'coin' (Fig. 3) as proof of their visit. The aluminum medal measures 38 mm in diameter. The 45x90 location is featured on one side and the club name and "OFFICIAL MEMBER" are on the other. A large replica of the medal is displayed proudly near the registry. For only the cost of a quick visit, the souvenir medal makes a nice addition to an exonomia collection, rewarding the collector who visits this unique spot on our rural landscape.



Figure 3: New members receive a commemorative 45 x 90 club medal.

Another great Wisconsin destination! I can't wait to get my membership medal. -Editor

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The First Official Coin *By Russell A. Augustin (CoinWeek 9/25/14)*

Natural resources are often a source of great wealth for a country, especially its king. The Pactolus River in Lydia, now modern day Turkey, was one of the most significant sources of electrum in the ancient world, and it allowed the kings to amass a substantial fortune by minting coins from these deposits. According to mythology, the electrum came from King Midas who bathed in the river to try to wash away his curse, which turned even his food into gold. In actuality, the persistent wealth of the region was due to its ability to mine and leverage its natural electrum in its prominent position as a trading center between Mesopotamia and the Greek cities. Lydia was noted by ancient authors as a significant center of commerce, and it was the first to establish retail shops in permanent locations. Despite their prominence, much of their history is unknown or inconsistently written.

Their coinage began with the kings Sadyattes and Alyattes. This particular coin is of the earliest variety of Lydian coins, most commonly dated to 630-620 BC during the reign of Sadyattes. It is dramatically rarer than the subsequent issues, minted during only a short period and with few dies. This coin is atypically well-preserved, in mint state with complete remaining luster, whereas nearly all known examples grade "very fine" or lower.

Although its weight indicates that its denomination is a trite, one-third of a stater, no full staters have ever been found from this period, meaning that the trite was likely their largest denomination. There is some disagreement as to the value of a Lydian trite in antiquity, but it is generally thought to represent about one month's salary, although there is evidence to suggest it was worth more, perhaps able to purchase up to eleven sheep.

While remaining a topic of debate by some, this type is now commonly considered to be the first official coin, meeting all of the requirements laid out in the dictionary definition: it is the first coin to have certified markings which signify a specific exchange value and be issued by a governmental authority for use as money. Earlier coins like the striated and geometric types failed to clearly meet the final criteria, whereas the lion was consistently associated with Lydia.

In antiquity and today, lions have been symbols of kings, ruling their domain and personifying royal authority, strength, and protection. The archaic style of this lion is particularly captivating, shown with teeth bared and roaring, with a fierce, triangle-shaped eye.

The lion was also considered a personification of the sun itself, as it was believed that lions could look directly into the sun. The zodiac sign Leo was therefore assigned to the hottest part of the year, from July 22nd to August 22nd. Appropriately, shown above the lion's head is a depiction of the shining sun. Later varieties devolve stylistically, and some interpret the less obvious sun pattern as a wart on the nose of the lion.

After the death of King Alyattes, his son Croesus ascended the throne and ceased minting the Lydian lion trites in favor of introducing the world's first bi-metallic coinage. The expression "rich as Croesus" originates from this king and is still in use today, some 2,600 years after he minted his coins.



KINGS of LYDIA. temp. Sadyattes. Circa 630-620 BC. EL Trite – Third Stater (13mm, 4.70 g). Sardes mint.

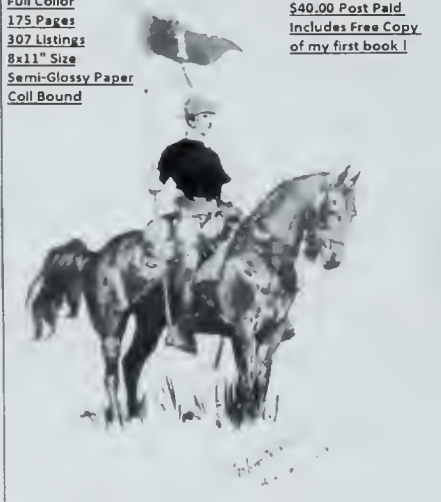
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THE ALLURE OF OLD COPPER *by Mark Benvenuto #2089*

When large, famous collections cross the auction block, loaded with rare gold, and silver pieces, or with pattern pieces in various metals, it's not uncommon to breathe a sigh of envy for the folks who were able to land these rarities, or for the sellers who could accumulate such collections in the first place. The sales of portions of the Eric P. Newman Collection probably form the apex of that particular pyramid, in that there probably won't be a bigger auction any time soon. Yet when auctions like this occur, I often take some renewed joy from the old copper in my collection, perhaps because after all the hype, such common, lowly coins remain both beautiful and historic.

Early Indian Head Cents

The earliest Indian Head cents all cost at least \$100 when we look at them in mint state grades. But that sort of price tag is precisely why a person can take some pride in a good looking piece in a grade like VF-20 or EF-40. The one-type year of 1859, with its simple, yet elegant wreath on the reverse, only costs about \$50 in a grade such as VF-20. That's pretty affordable for a cent with over 150 years of history to it, and some substantial detail still on the surfaces. But even if that price is too high for you, look at what a VF-20 or an EF-40 1862 or 1863 Indian Head cent will cost. Since both are amazingly common cents, their prices remain low today. And in those higher, circulated grades one can still have some of the warm, strong, pleasant look of old copper.



The 1857 or 1858 Flying Eagle Cent

Both of these are rather common one-cent pieces as well, but they take a special place in many folks' collections, since the series is so short, and since the 1856 is the rare date that very few of us can ever own. There were large cents minted in 1857 – the official tally is 333,546 coins – but the real cent of 1857 which heralded that which was to come is the Flying Eagle.



Like the early Indian Head cents, the common Flying Eagle cents can be found with attractive, chocolate-brown surfaces, and only a bit of wear. The \$50 - \$100 price tags we've just mentioned work fairly well here too, since there were over 17 million made in 1857, and over 24 million produced in 1858. A VF-20 or even an EF-40 example are not out of reach for most collectors.

Common Date Coronet Large Cents

Collecting large cents is one of those pursuits that teaches a person patience, in that it is usually difficult to just head out to a shop or show and pick up a date run of them. One of the Newman sales included a wonderful 1845 proof large cent,



which cost perhaps a bit less than a king's ransom – but perhaps quite a bit more than anything I could pay. But there are a lot of good looking Coronet large cents out there that do not cost too much at all.

Going backwards through the series, the 1856 qualifies as a very common Coronet large cent, with over 2.6 million minted. But even that number isn't too high when compared to some of the other dates within the series. Other than that 1857, all the dates in the 1850's are over a million per year, with the 1851 claiming the winner's spot at 9,889,707 minted. While it may cost a couple of hundred dollars in a mint state grade, when a person drops down again to VF-20, the price plummets to less than \$40. Once again, that's a great price for a piece of old copper that can still have some wonderful eye appeal.



Mintages for the Coronet cents of the 1840's are also all strong, with the 1847 and 1848 each possessing totals higher than 6 million coins. By any count, that's a lot of copper – and a lot of chances for some good prices. Even EF-40 pieces cost significantly less than \$100.

Going all the way back to the beginning of what gets called the Coronet Head large cents, back to 1816, and the only date that really qualifies as scarce or rare is the 1821. With 389,000 as its official total, it ends up costing more than its more common siblings in almost any grade. But all the other dates, with their million-plus, or multi-million, mintages, end up being affordable in the mid- to higher-end circulated grades.

Classic Head Large Cents

Many collectors have heard a number of shock and awe stories of the prices for early US large cents, and have seen that anything with a date prior to 1800 seems to be expensive in any grade. Yet before the Coronet Head cents, there is the brief span of years, from 1808 – 1814, in which what are called the Classic Head large cents were produced. There are only three years in the series in which mintages went over a million coins, and a few of the standard reference books indicate that these wore more quickly than large cents in the other series, apparently because of the purity of the copper (or lack thereof), but is still possible to land the 1808, the 1810, or the 1812 in a mid-circulated grade without having to flatten your wallet.



Overall

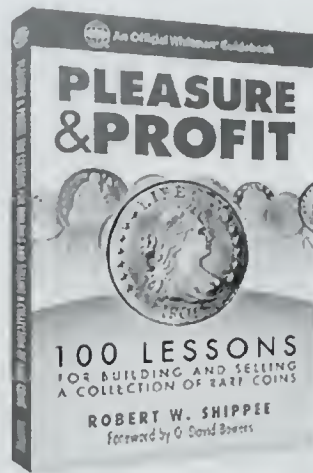
All things considered, there are still some beautiful copper cents out there, among both the early small cents and much of the later large cent series. Most of us will never be able to buy those coins that qualify as the upper flakes of the upper crust, but there are some very attractive coins in circulated grades which are affordable, and have the eye appeal and the feel of old copper.

BOOKS !

PLEASURE AND PROFIT

Whitman Publishing announces the release of *Pleasure and Profit: 100 Lessons for Building and Selling a Collection of Rare Coins*, by Robert W. Shippee. The book came out November 11 for the 2014 holiday season.

In *Pleasure and Profit*, longtime collector and retired international banker Robert Shippee reveals how he got serious about building a type collection of rare coins, carefully assembled the Waccabuc Collection of half cents through \$20 gold double eagles, and later sold them at public auction. Shippee tells the story “warts and all”—sharing not only his highly profitable purchases, but also the duds and costly mistakes. He analyzes each purchase of 100-plus copper, nickel, silver, and gold coins, capping each analysis with a valuable lesson learned. His story ends with a \$1.5 million sale at public auction.



Shippee supplements his real-world advice on acquisition strategies, storage choices, and disposition options with commentary on grading services, auction houses, famous dealers, numismatic personalities, market forces, and—with candor that’s rare these days—his laid-bare financial results. His insight is humorous, wise, and unflinching . . . uniquely valuable for today’s collector and investor.

A chapter on “Finances—The Final Scorecard” compares rare coins to stocks, with an analysis of different indexes. Shippee breaks down the biggest losers and the biggest winners in his basket of coins, and looks at the results by denomination, by century, by metallic composition, by grade, and by holding period.

Q. David Bowers, who wrote the book’s foreword, says, “Pleasure and Profit is one of the most useful books in American numismatics. It will change your buying strategies.”

###

Pleasure and Profit: 100 Lessons for Building and Selling a Collection of Rare Coins

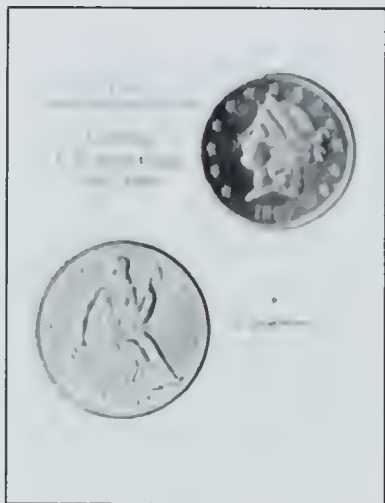
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The Token and Medal Society **GUIDE TO U.S. SHELL CARDS 1867 - 1880**

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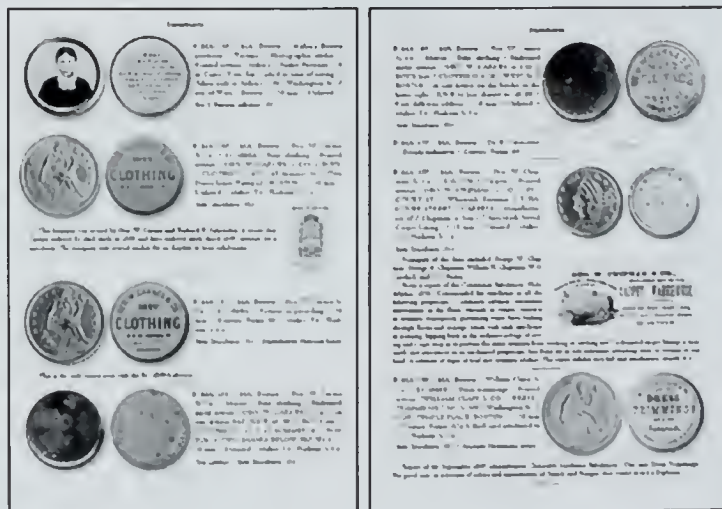
As Q. David Bowers points out in chapter 1 of this masterful study, there are few areas of American numismatics that haven't been examined, often in great detail, by collectors and historians. Bowers himself is well known as a researcher par excellence. His work in many coinage series has yielded a library of standard references, their subjects ranging from Buffalo nickels to gold double eagles, from the earliest colonial American tokens to the most recent commemorative coins. But until the publication of this work, the *The Token and Medal Society Guide to U.S. Shell Cards 1867-1880*, no book-length study of these fascinating advertising tokens had been attempted by Bowers or anyone else.

Shell cards were a post-Civil War phenomenon, mostly hailing from New York, Boston, Chicago, and other large United States cities in

the East and Midwest, although smaller quantities came from other regions. Coin-sized in diameter, these pocket-piece advertising tchotchkes often had coin-like designs, a feature that made them eye-catching and popular. They were constructed so that a business's advertisement was either embossed on one side or inserted, in print, a few under a thin mica window.

In the *The Token and Medal Society Guide to U.S. Shell Cards 1867-1880*, Q. David Bowers takes a subject that might otherwise be esoteric—understood and valued only by specialists—and broadens its appeal to touch on every facet of American life in the 1860s and 1870s. The past being prologue as it is, we cannot overestimate the value of that interdisciplinary approach. Bowers's shell cards may be rare, fragile, and small enough to hold in your hand, but they're only windows; his true subject is nothing less than the rich and colorful panorama of America itself.

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Doug Davis founder and president of NCIC is currently the City Manager and former Chief of Police in Pantego, Texas. Doug has over 30 years' experience in law enforcement and the numismatic industry. Doug is a graduate of the University of Texas and holds a Master Level Police Officer License in the State of Texas. Doug is a licensed law enforcement instructor and maintains a Lieutenants status with the Pantego Police Department.



In 1987 Doug established the **Numismatic Crime Information Center** within the Pantego Police Department to assist law enforcement officers in the investigation of crimes against collectors and dealers. Later that same year he was instrumental in assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the development of the National Stolen Coin File.

Recognized as an expert in numismatic investigations Doug developed the first and only accredited law enforcement school dealing with the investigation of numismatic crimes and continues to assist state, federal and local law enforcement agencies across the country. The American Numismatic Association has recognized Doug for his numismatic investigations and in 1988 was presented the PNG Sol Kaplan award for setting up a clearinghouse to coordinate investigations of crimes against the numismatic industry.

Doug Davis

Numismatic Crime Information Center

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Two Original Confederate Half Dollars will make history in early 2015 with auctions. First time in a century that two pieces are in marketplace. -*CoinWorld 11-7-14*
William T. Gibbs



The first of two original Confederate half dollars will appear in a January auction conducted by Heritage Auctions.

One of the most remarkable things about a truly remarkable coin, the 1861 Confederate half dollar, is that not a single example sold at auction until October 2003. Even private transactions were rare; none have been known to have occurred since the 1970s.

Rarity alone (four examples are known) probably cannot account for the infrequency of the coin's appearance in the marketplace. Examples of the 1913 Liberty Head 5-cent coin, five known, sell with some regularity. Two examples of that coin have made three auction appearances in the past five years..

This long history of infrequent availability is what makes the twin announcements from the nation's two biggest rivals in the numismatic auction business — Stack's Bowers Galleries and Heritage Auctions — that each will offer an example for sale in the first quarter of 2015 truly remarkable.

One has to look back more than a century, to the period from 1910 to 1912, to find a time when two pieces (the only ones then known) were offered for sale in close proximity.

In January, Heritage Auctions will offer the coin currently owned by Donald G. Partrick, whose ownership of the piece was publicly revealed only on Oct. 30. That is when Heritage announced that coins from his collection would begin appearing at auction in 2015.

Partrick's coin is the former John J. Ford Jr. specimen, which in October 2003 became the first original Confederate half dollar sold at public auction. That coin brought \$632,500 in Stack's 2003 sale.

The coin being offered by Stack's Bowers Galleries in March 2015 disappeared between its striking in 1861 and its reappearance in 1970, when it surfaced in New Orleans. Until now, that example has never been offered at auction.

The other two examples of the coin are in institutional collections — the American Numismatic Society holds one, as does the Eric P. Newman Education Foundation.

First coin surfaces. The existence of a Confederate half dollar was unknown to the collecting community until January 1879, when a former official of the New Orleans Mint wrote prominent coin dealer Ebenezer L. Mason to reveal that he not only did he have one, he also possessed the die that featured the Confederate design. The official related that in April 1861, four specimens were struck at the New Orleans Mint using a Confederate design on the obverse and a federal Seated Liberty obverse die for the reverse. The official, Benjamin F. Taylor, had served at the Mint both under U.S. and Confederate jurisdiction.

Second coin revealed. At the time of the Saltus purchase, just one other example was known, and it had surfaced only in 1910. Dealer Elder announced that this second example was in the possession of a collector who claimed that he had obtained it in a roll of coins some 30 years earlier. Elder reported in 1910 that the coin was not for sale and that the collector owner "would in all probability not budge him in his determination not to part with it." Whether Elder was exaggerating about the collector's desire to keep possession of the coin is unknown.

Third known specimen. The coin in Heritage's January auction at the Florida United Numismatists convention was purchased by dealer Ted Schnur in 1961 for \$75, and then sold to John J. Ford for a price of \$425. If those prices seem low, that is because the coin was identified not as an original Confederate half dollar but instead as one of the restrikes struck in 1879 by J.W. Scott using the original Confederate die and genuine 1861 Seated Liberty half dollars with their reverse design planed off. Ford then determined that the coin was original. Schnur sued Ford over the transaction. Eventually the coin was sold by Stack's in 2003, where Mr. Patrick purchased it.

Fourth known specimen. The coin in the Stack's Bowers auction, as noted, surfaced in 1970. It was acquired by New York City dealer Lester Merkin, either for cash or in trade for other coins. Merkin sold this fourth Confederate half dollar in 1971 to an undisclosed buyer, and the coin has been unavailable since then, until its upcoming auction appearance.

Changes in ownership for an original Confederate half dollar occur only rarely. That fact, plus the secretive nature of most transactions for the coin, have made determining value more difficult than for similarly rare coins that trade far more frequently (such as the aforementioned 1913 Liberty Head 5-cent coins).

What will the two coins bring if offered at auction without reserve? Will the former Ford coin exceed its 2003 price of \$632,500 when offered by Heritage in January? Will the coin in the March Stack's Bowers Galleries auction, which is in a higher grade than the Ford specimen, bring an even higher price?

The results should be truly remarkable, just like the Confederate half dollars.

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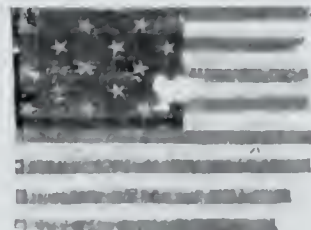
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What do you know about the War of 1812? by Jeff Reichenberger #1933

If you are like me, and most Americans, you probably know very little. It seems like the War of 1812 is but a footnote in American history. Most people remember a couple facts from their high school history class; 1) The British burned Washington/the White House; 2) The 'Star Spangled Banner' was written. That's about it. Well, since this is the two-hundredth anniversary of the end of that war, I thought it appropriate to explore a few facts about the War of 1812, a surprising Wisconsin connection, and some interesting related coinage.



This Smithsonian-restored flag flew over Fort Mifflin during the bombardment in 1814.

1812. President James Madison and the United States declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812 for a number of reasons, including impressment of American sailors, the provoking of Native Americans unrest on the frontiers of America, and the outright seizure of American commercial ships. In addition, there had been long lasting trade restrictions brought on by Britain's war against France, America's ally during the revolution. That on-going conflict with Napoleon depleted the British of armaments, supplies, and man-power, prompting the taking of American commercial vessels, and the impressment of Americans into serving the British Crown. Impressment was a curious outrage as described by author Walter R. Borneman in his book; "1812, The War That Forged a Nation":

How degrading to the young nation to have its ships stopped, its citizens seized and then made to serve in virtual imprisonment aboard His Majesty's warships. Oppressive as impressment was to most, the British government viewed the policy as essential to its mastery of the seas. British law permitted any able-bodied male subject to be drafted into immediate service in the Royal Navy – anytime, anywhere. This meant that a British captain who was short-handed could put into any friendly or neutral port throughout the world and send a 'press gang' ashore to round up likely recruits. Frequently this was done among pubs and brothels, but press gangs also boarded commercial vessels flying the Union Jack or flags of neutral countries, including the United States. Legally, such impressed recruits had to be British subjects, but practically, British citizenship throughout a worldwide dominion had many shades of gray. When, for example, did a British immigrant to the United States cease to be a British subject? The U.S. had naturalization laws, of course, but the British crown held to a simpler criterion: 'once an Englishman, always an Englishman'. While Great Britain's practice of impressment was longstanding, its use escalated as British manpower needs increased during the Napoleonic wars. Between 1803 and 1812 at least five thousand and perhaps as many as nine thousand sailors were impressed from the decks of American ships and forced to serve in the Royal Navy. Perhaps as many as three-quarters were bona fide American citizens. In 1807, then Secretary of State James Madison decried the entire practice of impressment as "anomalous in principle, grievous in practice, and abominable in abuse." His demands that the practice cease met only with contempt from British authorities, particularly the foreign secretary, who scoffed: "The pretension advanced by Mr. Madison that the American flag should protect every individual sailing under it...is too extravagant to require any serious refutation." So impressment continued.-1

While sea battles on the Atlantic coast were a prominent theater of the war, land-water battles were fought along the American – Canadian borders following the Saint Lawrence River, Lake Champlain, and the Great Lakes. On the ground the British incited Native American tribes to fight with them against the American government, while British warships sailed down the St. Lawrence and moved in and about the Great Lakes on various fronts. A third area of fighting was in the south and the Gulf Coast at New Orleans, where there were major land battles fought with British and their Indian allies.

1813. Early on in the war, the Americans recorded very few victories, having been turned back from invasions of Canada several times, and suffering defeats in the Great Lakes region at Detroit, Fort Michilimacina (present day Mackinac Island, Upper Michigan), and Queenston Heights, Canada. In January 1813, in present day Michigan, General William Henry Harrison planned to attack British forces in Detroit by splitting his army into three groups and advancing at three different points. But one of the divisions, freezing from conditions, instead sought out food and shelter. The division, led by General James Winchester captured an enemy supply store at Frenchtown on the River Raisin and camped there. Being in a poor position for defense the division was vulnerable and was massacred by a surprise attack of 2500 combined Brits and Indians. Over 400 troops were killed and the majority of 80 wounded were finished off the following day.-2



Many battles were fought in the Great Lakes Theater.

The spring of 1813 brought better fortune for the Americans in the Great Lakes arena. In May, General Harrison and his forces turned back a siege on Fort Meig in Ohio. The fort was a center of American activity and a prime target for British forces. The siege began in April and Harrison's forces were outnumbered 4 to 1 but the Americans held their ground and when relief forces arrived the British-Indian army retreated after nearly a month of unsuccessful attacks.-3

While Fort Meig was being defended, the Americans launched an attack across Lake Ontario to the Upper Canadian capital of York (present day Toronto). Landing on April 27, 1813, after ferocious

fighting the British were forced to retreat. The Americans occupied York briefly and burned down Canadian Parliament buildings and their shipyard. Later in the war, in retaliation for the burning of York, the British would burn the Capitol building, White house and other government buildings in Washington D.C.-4

During the first half of 1813 the Americans were building up their war vessels in Lake Erie in order to control the lake and its ports which were occupied by British forces and Indian allies led by their fearless leader Tecumseh. In a grand victory for the Americans on September 10, under command of Oliver Hazard Perry, the British fleet was forced to surrender and the Americans were able to take control of Lake Erie and attack Forts Detroit and Malden. The British retreated up the Thames River, much to the chagrin of Tecumseh who preferred to stand and fight, but who nevertheless followed. On October 5th General William Henry Harrison's American forces overtook the British-Indian alliance in the Battle of the Thames. Tecumseh was killed. The Americans held the Lake Erie frontier for the remainder of the war, while the British still controlled the Northern Michigan territories.-5



Battle of the Thames at Chatham, Ontario, where Shawnee War Chief Tecumseh was killed during battle.

1814. Fighting continued into the spring of 1814. In May British and Canadian troops scored a victory at the Battle of Fort Oswego, New York and managed to resupply their lines with a generous cache of everything from ammunition to food stuffs enough to last months.

Wisconsin. It is astounding to think how widespread the War of 1812 was, from the remote locations of engagement on the northern borders, along the eastern seaboard, and south to the Gulf States, the battles raged in spite of the agonizingly slow transportation and communication of the times. For proof of this look no further than the skirmish at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. In May the Governor of the Mississippi Territory, William Clark (of Lewis and Clark fame) drove a small British-Indian force out of the Prairie du Chien area. it was a strategic location near the merging of the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers. Clark built Fort Shelby there to help secure the region and fend off would-be assaults from the north on St. Louis, some four hundred miles to the south. But on July 17th a large British-Indian force came down from Mackinac and attacked Fort Shelby. After two days of fighting the outnumbered Americans surrendered and Prairie du Chien remained in British hands for the rest of the war, however, St. Louis was never attacked.-6

The British captured Washington on August 23, 1814 and proceeded to torch it in retaliation for the burning of York. President Madison made a narrow escape as the Library of Congress, the White House, the Capitol and Treasury buildings burned.-7

On September 11th, one of the most important battles of the war took place on Lake Champlain and the U.S. Fort at Plattsburg. The outnumbered U.S. fleet destroyed the British fleet, forcing the British to retreat back to Canada. The American victory was instrumental in the continued propagation of peace negotiations later in the year. Almost simultaneous to the Plattsburg campaign, after the British burned Washington, they headed north to bombard Fort McHenry at Baltimore. Americans held their ground and as the bombs lit up the night. One witness who was a detained lawyer trying to negotiate the release of an imprisoned medical doctor, was Francis Scott Key. He saw the flag still flying in the dawn which inspired him to pen a poem titled, "Defense of Fort McHenry". Later retitled "The Star-Spangled Banner", now 200 years later it is indelible in the American consciousness as our national anthem.-8

The battles of Lake Champlain and Plattsburg closed out the fighting on the northern frontier in 1814. In spite of growing British strength in Canada, the fighting there proved to be indecisive. Although Great Britain controlled Prairie du Chien, Mackinac Island, and Fort Niagara, and the United States controlled both banks of the Detroit River. Neither side could claim any monumental conquest, and command of the lakes was divided. Thus, after 3 years of fighting, the war on the Canadian – American frontier was a stalemate.-9

The War Ends. Finally, on Christmas Eve 1814, the Treaty of Ghent (Belgium) was signed officially ending the War of 1812. Ironically, with news that traveled at a snail's pace, one famous battle took place two weeks after the signing of the treaty. The Battle of New Orleans was fought on January 8, 1815. Future President Andrew Jackson commanded the Southern Theater and though they were once again outnumbered, the Americans recorded a rout, effectively slamming the door on the war and solidifying America's resolve as a nation.

Coinage. In 2012 the United States Mint issued two coins commemorating the bicentennial of our national anthem. The "Star-Spangled Banner" silver dollar and the "Star-Spangled Banner" five dollar gold piece, both in uncirculated and proof versions. The coins are available in the aftermarket. Current prices are approximately \$45 for the



silver uncirculated dollar and \$50 for the proof version; the gold half eagle goes for \$500 in either proof or uncirculated.

What coins were being struck by the United States Mint during the war years? From 1812 to 1814 the mint had a hard time getting raw materials to strike coins, at the same time the country was strapped for circulating coinage, resulting in a general shortage. Spanish milled dollars and its fractions, and other foreign currencies continued to be in use alongside the U.S. issues. The U.S. Mint tried its best to keep pace, but the workload was light during the war years. In 1812 only three denominations were issued; Classic Head large cents, Capped Bust Half Dollars, and Capped Bust Half Eagles, all of them designed by engraver John Reich. 1,075,500 cents were struck, 1,628,059 half dollars, and just 58,087 half eagles. In 1813 the mint produced 418,000 cents, 1,241,903 half dollars, and 95,428 half eagles. In 1814 the mint added Capped Bust Dimes to the meager list, striking 421,500, in addition to 357,830 cents, 1,039,075 half dollars, and 15,454 half eagles.

Just over 6 million coins struck for the entire three years. Obviously, the gold fives are rare and expensive, the 1812 coming in the most affordable at \$3000 in Fine condition. The large cents are a bit easier to come by, and more affordable at around \$250 in Fine condition. The one dime issue is scarce but can be purchased in the \$130 range in Fine. Capped Bust Half Dollars are by far the most abundant and available coins of the years 1812 to 1814. These 200 year old large silver coins offer an excellent value at around \$150 to \$200 in Fine condition, not including rare die varieties.

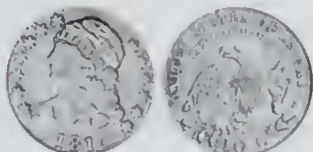
Collecting representative coins from the War of 1812 can be fun, affordable, and rewarding. Of course a 'complete' set would be off-the-chart difficult and expensive to achieve, but a nice circulated large cent and half dollar of each of the years make a great short-set.



Capped Bust Half Dollar



Capped Bust Half Eagle



Capped Bust Dime



Classic Head Large Cent

Interestingly, experts are able to actually identify varieties of half dollars that were struck very near the exact times of some events of the war using mint striking records and emission sequences. In a very interesting exchange between members of the John Reich Collectors Society, Bust coin expert and author Steve Tompkins responds to a Young Numismatist who had questions after visiting the Fort McHenry museum in Baltimore.

Young Numismatist Garrett Ziss writes:

On November 10, 2013, I visited Ft. McHenry after attending the Baltimore Whitman show the day before. During our tour, they mentioned that the cannon fire from the September 13/14, 1814 Battle of Ft. McHenry, could be heard all the way to Philadelphia. Of course, I immediately thought of the Mint striking Bust Halves while the employees wondered if our country would survive. I did not yet own an 1814 Capped Bust half dollar, but made it a goal to purchase one sometime in 2014 during the 200th Anniversary of the coin and the Star-Spangled Banner.

Today (September 13, 2014), the day before the 200th Anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner, I purchased an 1814 Bust Half of a coin show in Lancaster, PA. It is a VF O-103 (R1), but it's a nice looking coin. (O-103 = Overton Bust Half variety, R1 = rarity rating. -Editor)

As soon as I got home with the coin, I looked up the emission sequence for 1814 Bust Halves. The O-103 is the next to last die marriage listed for 1814 out of a total of 9 die marriages. So, I think it's possible that it could have been struck during the time of the Battle of Ft. McHenry. September 14, 1814 was a Wednesday, so the Mint was in operation that day. My question to Bust Half experts is, if the information on the Mint delivery warrants is known for that year, is it possible to definitively tell what die marriage was being made on September 13/14, 1814?

Bust Coin specialist Steve Tompkins replied:

- *The Mint delivery records show two deliveries of bust halves in September 1814.*
- * Delivery #725 - 9/12/1814 - 60,164, Delivery #727 - 9/19/1814 - 31,800*
- * Let's look at some facts and statistics to see if we can determine if your coin was indeed struck during the battle at Fort McHenry...*
- * Other than two R-4 die marriages, the other seven for the year are considered R-1 to R-3.*
- * The total number of bust halves delivered for 1814 is 1,039,075.*
- * If we just take this number and divide it by nine (the number of die marriages for the year), we get 115,453 coins struck per die marriage.*
- * There is no way to determine exactly how many actual coins were struck with each die marriage due to the unknown amount of attrition for each marriage.*
- * Even based on rarity we cannot narrow it down to a more accurate number, as on R-1 can only be stated as containing more than 1250 coins still in existence and this is open ended.*
- * But we can certainly state that the R-4 die marriages should contain 81-200 coins still remaining out of the original amount struck.*
- * The most often stated survival rate for early bust coinage is about 3%, however for bust halves*

I suggest it could be as high as 5-10%, due to banks keeping large amounts in their vaults.

** If we took the 10% number, then for the R-4 die marriages there should have been at least 810 - 2000 coins originally struck. Even if this number is lowered to 5%, we are looking at 1620-4000 coins originally struck.*

** According to the Leaman-Gunnett-10 emission sequence, the last two die marriages struck in 1814 were O-103 & O-106. O-106 is currently on R-4 die marriage.*

** Only those coins produced and delivered in the last delivery of bust halves for the year could have possibly been struck during the bottle.*

** The last delivery (#727) on 9/19/1814 contained 31,800 bust halves. If we subtract the possible amount of coins struck utilizing the dies of the O-106 die marriage, we still have at least 27,800 coins left over that could have been struck by the dies of the O-103 die marriage. As the O-103 is currently on R-1, most likely all of those remaining coins and some of the prior delivery were of the O-103 die marriage.*

** So, the answer to the question is most likely YES...your coin could have been struck during the battle, but there were O-103's struck before and probably after the bottle as well.*

** This is a neat way to connect a coin to a specific point in history!-11*

Well let me say, perhaps in the way a Young Numismatist might describe it, that this connection to history is not just neat; this connection to history is *TOTALLY AWESOME!* And it allows me to insert an exclamation point at the end of this article, and conveys an appropriate tribute to the War That Forged a Nation.

Endnotes / sources:

¹ 1812. The War That Forged A Nation. By Walter R. Bornman. Harper-Collins 2004

² HistoryCentral.com

³ Government of Canada. 1812.gc.ca

⁴ Government of Canada. 1812.gc.ca

⁵ Government of Canada. 1812.gc.ca

⁶ The War of 1812. A forgotten conflict. By Donald R. Hickey. University of Illinois Press. 2012

⁷ Coinage Magazine. September 2013.

⁸ Coinage Magazine. September 2013.

⁹ The War of 1812. A forgotten conflict. By Donald R. Hickey. University of Illinois Press. 2012

¹⁰ By studying the changes in the impressions of the edge lettering dies Ivan Leaman and Donald Gunnet were able to determine the order in which the Bust Half Dollars were minted. Their original work was published in: America's Silver Coinage 1794-1891, *Edges and Die Sequences on Early Half Dollars*, Ivan Leaman and Donald Gunnet. Coinage of the Americas Conference, American Numismatic Society, New York, NY 1987

¹¹ John Reich Collectors Society electronic newsletter. September 21, 2014 issue

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SHOW CALENDAR

Please send your pertinent show information to jkreichenberger@hotmail.com
- or - NOW NEWS Editor - P.O. Box 3572 – Oshkosh, WI 54903

February 15, 2015 - Oshkosh

Wisconsin Coin Expos LLC 32nd Annual Coin Show at Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main St. Oshkosh. Hours: 9am – 4pm. Free Admission. Contact Randy Miller, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903. 920-231-6161 fx920-231-6122.

February 22, 2015 – Racine

Racine Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show. Roma Lodge, 7130 Spring Street, Racine. Hours 9:00 – 3:30. 50 dealers. Free parking. Free Admission. Show contact: Bill Spencer 262-637-7766.

March 8, 2015 – New Berlin

Waukesha Coin Clubs 46th annual Waukesha Coin Show. Held at New Berlin Ale House, 16000 W. Cleveland Av., New Berlin, WI. 9am to 4pm. 35+ dealers, attendance prizes every half hour, exhibits, raffle, and plenty of free parking. Contact: waukeshacoinclub.com

March 19,20,21, 2015 – Milwaukee SSCC

South Shore Coin Club's 51st Annual Coin Show at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport (NEW LOCATION!), 6401 S. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI. Wisconsin's largest and only 3-day show! March 26 (12 – 6pm), 27 (10 -6), 28 (10 -4). First 200 Seniors (62+) Free. Contact Joe B. at 414-327-6156. Website: ssccmke.org.

March 22, 2015 - Madison

Madison 83rd Anniversary Coin Show at Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 50 tables. Contact Jim Essence, Jim's Coins, 702 N. Midvale Ave., Madison, WI Phone: 608-2233-2118 or www.jimscoins.net.

March 29, 2015 - Appleton

Fox Valley Coin Club's 60th Annual Spring Coin Show at Darboy Club, N.9695 County Rd. N., Appleton, WI. 40 tables. Contact James Bayer/Jerry Roberts, PO Box 1981, Appleton, WI 54912 54915. Ph: 920-739-1089.

April 9 - 12, 2015 – Chicago International Coin Fair

Crown Plaza Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont, IL. Info: Numismaster.com

April 19, 2015 – Wausau

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club's Show at Howard Johnson's Inn & Conference Center, 2101 N. Mountain Road, Wausau. Hours: 9-4. Show contact: Thad Streeter, 5002 Tanya St., Schofield, WI 54478. Phone: 715-574-2777, e-mail tls@hotmail.com.

April 22-25, 2015 – Central States – Schaumburg, IL

CSNS 76th anniversary convention at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173. Info: Centralstates.info

May 3, 2015- Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club's Spring Show at Comfort Suites - Rock Garden, 1951 Bond Street, Green Bay. Free admission, 39 tables. Show Contact Roger Bohn, Ph. 920-819-7294 or boneyard7@yahoo.com.

May 9, 2015 - Sheboygan

Sheboygan Coin Club Show at The Laker's Ice Center, 1202 S. Wildwood Av. Sheboygan, WI 53081. 40 tables. Free admission. 9am – 3:30pm. Bourse Chairman: Ed Rautmann, 920-893-5864, P.O.Box 907 Sheboygan, WI 53082

May 15-16, 2015 – Iola – NOW Show

Numismatists of Wisconsin's 55th Anniversary Coin Show and Meeting, hosted by the Wisconsin Valley Coin Club and NOW's Iola friends, Friday and Saturday, May 15-16 at the Iola Old Car Show Activity Center Building, 700 E. State St, Iola, WI. Free admission, 55 dealer tables, Saturday educational programs, Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic, Collector exhibits, Free souvenir, Contact: Clifford Mishler, 715-445-5050, mish@EclecticPursuitsIola.com

September 5, 2015 - Sheboygan

Sheboygan Coin and Stamp Show at The Laker's Ice Center, 1202 S. Wildwood Av. Sheboygan, WI 53081. 40 tables. Free admission. 9am – 3:30pm. Bourse Chairman: Ed Rautmann, 920-893-5864, P.O.Box 907 Sheboygan, WI 53082

October 4, 2015 – Milwaukee MNS

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's Annual Coin Show at American Serb Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee. Hours: 9am-4pm, 75 tables, \$1 admission. Show Chm. Tom Casper 414-425-5444; tcasper57@hotmail.com

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